

Herger	McGovern	Sabo
Herseth	McHugh	Sánchez, Linda
Hill	McInnis	T.
Hinchey	McIntyre	Sanchez, Loretta
Hinojosa	McKeon	Sanders
Hobson	McNulty	Sandlin
Hoeffel	Meehan	Saxton
Hoekstra	Meek (FL)	Schakowsky
Holden	Meeks (NY)	Schiff
Holt	Menendez	Schrock
Honda	Mica	Scott (GA)
Hooley (OR)	Michaud	Scott (VA)
Hostettler	Miller (FL)	Sensenbrenner
Hoyer	Miller (MI)	Serrano
Hulshof	Miller (NC)	Sessions
Hunter	Miller, Gary	Shadegg
Hyde	Miller, George	Shaw
Inlee	Mollohan	Shays
Isakson	Moore	Sherman
Israel	Moran (KS)	Sherwood
Issa	Moran (VA)	Shimkus
Istook	Murphy	Shuster
Jackson (IL)	Murtha	Simmons
Jackson-Lee	Musgrave	Simpson
(TX)	Myrick	Skelton
Jefferson	Nadler	Smith (MI)
Jenkins	Napolitano	Smith (NJ)
John	Neugebauer	Smith (TX)
Johnson (CT)	Ney	Smith (WA)
Johnson (IL)	Northup	Snyder
Johnson, E. B.	Nunes	Solis
Johnson, Sam	Nussle	Souder
Jones (NC)	Oberstar	Spratt
Kanjorski	Obey	Stearns
Kaptur	Olver	Stenholm
Keller	Ortiz	Strickland
Kelly	Osborne	Stupak
Kennedy (MN)	Ose	Sullivan
Kennedy (RI)	Otter	Sweeney
Kildee	Owens	Tancredo
Kilpatrick	Oxley	Tanner
Kind	Pallone	Tauscher
King (IA)	Pascarell	Taylor (MS)
King (NY)	Pastor	Taylor (NC)
Kirk	Payne	Terry
Kline	Pearce	Thomas
Knollenberg	Pence	Thompson (CA)
Kolbe	Peterson (MN)	Thompson (MS)
Kucinich	Peterson (PA)	Thornberry
LaHood	Petri	Tiahrt
Lampson	Pickering	Tiberi
Langevin	Pitts	Tierney
Lantos	Platts	Toomey
Larsen (WA)	Pombo	Turner (OH)
Larson (CT)	Pomeroy	Turner (TX)
Latham	Porter	Udall (CO)
LaTourette	Portman	Udall (NM)
Leach	Price (NC)	Upton
Lee	Pryce (OH)	Van Hollen
Levin	Putnam	Velázquez
Lewis (CA)	Quinn	Visclosky
Lewis (GA)	Radanovich	Vitter
Lewis (KY)	Rahall	Walden (OR)
Linder	Ramstad	Walsh
Lipinski	Regula	Wamp
LoBiondo	Rehberg	Waters
Lofgren	Renzi	Watson
Lowe	Reyes	Waxman
Lucas (KY)	Reynolds	Weiner
Lucas (OK)	Rodriguez	Weldon (FL)
Lynch	Rogers (AL)	Weldon (PA)
Majette	Rogers (KY)	Weller
Maloney	Rogers (MI)	Wexler
Manzullo	Rohrabacher	Whitfield
Markey	Ros-Lehtinen	Wicker
Marshall	Ross	Wilson (NM)
Matheson	Rothman	Wilson (SC)
Matsui	Roybal-Allard	Wolf
McCarthy (MO)	Royce	Woolsey
McCarthy (NY)	Ruppersberger	Wu
McCollum	Rush	Wynn
McCotter	Ryan (OH)	Young (FL)
McCrery	Ryan (WI)	
McDermott	Ryun (KS)	

NOT VOTING—20

Boehlert	Millender-	Rangel
Dooley (CA)	McDonald	Slaughter
Gephardt	Neal (MA)	Stark
Houghton	Nethercutt	Tauzin
Jones (OH)	Norwood	Towns
Kingston	Paul	Watt
Kleczyka	Pelosi	Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 2236

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow, and the votes postponed earlier today on H.R. 4661 and H.R. 5213 also will be taken tomorrow.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 854. An act to provide for the promotion of democracy, human rights, and rule of law in the Republic of Belarus and for the consolidation and strengthening of Belarus sovereignty and independence.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2608. An act to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2195. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify the definition of anabolic steroids and to provide for research and education activities relating to steroids and steroid precursors.

S. 2864. An act to extend for eighteen months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is reenacted.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4850) "An Act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes."

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORT AND EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5131) to provide assistance to Special Olympics to support expansion of

Special Olympics and development of education programs and a Healthy Athletes Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5131

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Special Olympics celebrates the possibilities of a world where everybody matters, everybody counts, every person has value, and every person has worth.

(2) The Government and the people of the United States recognize the dignity and value the giftedness of children and adults with an intellectual disability.

(3) The Government and the people of the United States are determined to end the isolation and stigmatization of people with an intellectual disability.

(4) For more than 36 years, Special Olympics has encouraged skill, sharing, courage, and joy through year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

(5) Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competitive opportunities to 1,500,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities in 26 sports and plans to expand the joy of participation through sport to hundreds of thousands of people with intellectual disabilities within the United States and worldwide over the next 5 years.

(6) Special Olympics has demonstrated its ability to provide a major positive effect on the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities, improving their health and physical well-being, building their confidence and self-esteem, and giving them a voice to become active and productive members of their communities.

(7) In society as a whole, Special Olympics has become a vehicle and platform for breaking down artificial barriers, improving public health, changing negative attitudes in education, and helping athletes overcome the prejudice that people with intellectual disabilities face in too many places.

(8) The Government of the United States enthusiastically supports Special Olympics, recognizes its importance in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, and recognizes Special Olympics as a valued and important component of the global community.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) provide support to Special Olympics to increase athlete participation in and public awareness about the Special Olympics movement;

(2) dispel negative stereotypes about people with intellectual disabilities;

(3) build athletic and family involvement through sport; and

(4) promote the extraordinary gifts of people with intellectual disabilities.

SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS.

(a) EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Education may award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, Special Olympics to carry out the following:

(1) Activities to promote the expansion of Special Olympics, including activities to increase the participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities within the United States.

(2) The design and implementation of Special Olympics education programs, including

character education and volunteer programs that support the purposes of this Act, that can be integrated into classroom instruction and are consistent with academic content standards.

(b) **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary of State may award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, Special Olympics to carry out the following:

(1) Activities to increase the participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities in Special Olympics outside of the United States.

(2) Activities to improve the awareness outside of the United States of the abilities and unique contributions that individuals with intellectual disabilities can make to society.

(c) **HEALTHY ATHLETES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, Special Olympics for the implementation of on-site health assessments, screening for health problems, health education, data collection, and referrals to direct health care services.

(2) **COORDINATION.**—Activities under paragraph (1) shall be coordinated with private health providers, existing authorized programs of State and local jurisdictions, or the Department of Health and Human Services, as applicable.

(d) **LIMITATION.**—Amounts appropriated to carry out this section shall not be used for direct treatment of diseases, medical conditions, or mental health conditions. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to limit the use of non-Federal funds by Special Olympics.

SEC. 4. APPLICATION AND ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) **APPLICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible for a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 3, Special Olympics shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary of Education, Secretary of State, or Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, may require.

(2) **CONTENT.**—At a minimum, an application under this subsection shall contain the following:

(A) **ACTIVITIES.**—A description of activities to be carried out with the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

(B) **MEASURABLE GOALS.**—Information on specific measurable goals and objectives to be achieved through activities carried out with the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As a condition on receipt of any funds under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 3, Special Olympics shall agree to submit an annual report at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary of Education, Secretary of State, or Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, may require.

(2) **CONTENT.**—At a minimum, each annual report under this subsection shall describe the degree to which progress has been made toward meeting the goals and objectives described in the applications submitted under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under section 3(a), \$5,500,000 for fiscal year 2005, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years;

(2) for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under section 3(b), \$3,500,000 for

fiscal year 2005, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years; and

(3) for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under section 3(c), \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. **McKEON**) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. **HOYER**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. **McKEON**).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **McKEON**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5131.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. **McKEON**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining time I control be controlled by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. **BLUNT**), the distinguished majority whip.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. **BLUNT**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly am grateful to my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. **McKEON**), and his committee for sending this bill directly to the floor. I am pleased to be a sponsor of this historic legislation to provide support to the Special Olympics organization founded by Eunice Shriver over three decades ago and to the thousands of athletes who participate in these games.

This authorization proves the commitment of the United States Congress to this positive organization and all of its participants. Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities who become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition.

Special Olympics has become an important vehicle and platform for breaking down artificial barriers, improving public health, changing negative attitudes in education, and helping athletes overcome the prejudice that people with their disabilities often face.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competitive opportunities for nearly 1.5 million athletes in 26 different sports. In my home State of Missouri, Special Olympics serves nearly 14,000 athletes ranging from 8 to 80 years old.

With the resources we hope to authorize today, Special Olympics plans to expand participation to hundreds of thousands of people worldwide over the next 5 years. These new resources will also help Special Olympics continue the vision, dental, hearing, and nutritional health screenings they currently

provide for their athletes. These services are handled entirely by volunteer health professionals and are critical to enhancing the lives of people who might otherwise go completely without care.

Finally, these resources will allow students of all abilities the chance to learn about differences and engage in creating local Special Olympics teams and events as part of a school-based curriculum. Children and adults with intellectual disabilities who participate in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence, and a more positive self-image.

I would like to thank my colleague across the aisle, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. **HOYER**), the Democratic whip, for his leadership on this issue. It is probably not as often as it should be that Democrats and Republicans, Senators and House Members stand together in total agreement on an issue of this importance. We have worked hard with our friends in the other body to see that that happens.

The government of the United States of America enthusiastically supports Special Olympics and recognizes its importance in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, and I urge my colleagues to move forward and pass this legislation at the end of our debate.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **HOYER**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, Mr. Speaker, let me say how pleased I am to have had the opportunity to work with the majority whip on this legislation. I want to say that the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. **BLUNT**) is my friend, and he and I have had the opportunity to work on a number of issues together. He was extraordinarily helpful with the Help America Vote Act, and he and I, as some may know, meet on a regular basis and have lunch either in his office or in my office.

The majority whip referenced our working together in a bipartisan way. I think he is absolutely correct, this is an example of how we can work together and how when we do work together we can do very productive and positive things.

At the outset, I want to thank April Ponnuru for the work that she has done, a member of the staff of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. **BLUNT**), as well as my own staff member, Jane Sung. Both of them have worked very hard to get this legislation to where it is today.

I am pleased, of course, to support the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act 2004, which the gentleman from Missouri and I, and others, have cosponsored. In 1968, Mr. Speaker, at the launch of the first Special Olympics games, Eunice Kennedy Shriver repeated the words of the ancient Roman gladiators and said, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be

brave in the attempt." This has since become the Special Olympics athletes' pledge.

Special Olympics has a remarkable history. It began with Eunice Shriver, who believed that people with intellectual disabilities were underestimated and deserved the same opportunities and experiences as the rest of society. In 1962, she began a day camp in her back yard in Maryland, where individuals with intellectual disabilities could participate in physical activities.

It is ironic that I met Eunice and Sarge Shriver in 1962 at the Washingtonian Motel at the Young Democrats convention that year. Sarge Shriver was our speaker. Since that time, I have become and been a very good friend of Sarge Shriver and Eunice Shriver. Her work in the ensuing years led quickly to expanded multiple camps and eventually to the first international Special Olympics in 1968. Today, under the leadership of Chairman and CEO Timothy Shriver, the Special Olympics is a worldwide movement with nearly 1.5 million participating athletes in 150 countries around the world; one person with an idea and a vision starting something in her backyard, one person who had been given substantial benefits in life but who knew that she wanted to use those benefits, as so many in her family have done, for the benefit of all.

The bill that we are considering today is about the future of Special Olympics.

□ 2245

This bill will help Special Olympics take the next steps to reach more athletes in more aspects of their lives. For example, Mr. Speaker, this bill will formally authorize the critical "healthy athletes" program, where tens of thousands of athletes receive health care screenings at competition venues.

This bill will also allow Special Olympics to develop educational programs for athletes, including character education and volunteer opportunities. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, this bill will allow Special Olympics to further expand their reach internationally through cultural exchanges and other programs in cooperation with the State Department. How very important this is at a time when tensions are so high in so many areas of the world, and this program can seek to ease those tensions while at the same time giving opportunities to the intellectually disadvantaged.

But what distinguishes this from so many bills that we consider in this body is that, at its core, the biggest success of Special Olympics is not simply how it empowers and improves the lives of the athletes involved. The biggest success is how it affects the attitudes of millions of others. I do not know how many in this body have ever been huggers. That term is not used today, an analogous term is used, but being a hugger was being involved at the Special Olympics and, as those ath-

letes competed, knowing full well that it was in the competition that they succeeded, to congratulate them, to, yes, indeed, physically hug them and say, well done, good job, you're special, what an incredible difference that has made in the lives of so many.

Special Olympics has helped to reverse prejudices and stigmas that are often too unfairly put upon people with intellectual disabilities. With Special Olympics, the world sees for itself that people with intellectual disabilities can be, and are, exceptional athletes and can compete, achieve and, yes, win.

I am pleased that the House of Representatives can play a role in this mission. Mr. Speaker, I had the great honor of being one of the cosponsors of the Americans with Disabilities bill. That was passed in 1990 and signed by President Bush into law. He said at the time of signing, and we have said since, that this bill opened opportunities and focused on what people could do, what their ability was, not what their disability was. This bill takes another step forward in ensuring that one of the finest programs that we have in America and around the world, the Special Olympics, will thrive, expand and serve even millions more.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the chief deputy whip.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority whip for yielding me this time and congratulate him for bringing this bill forward. I also thank the minority whip, the gentleman from Maryland, for his work on this piece of legislation. I, too, rise in support of this bill. I think I, too, have been a hugger. I know many of our colleagues in this House have attended several Special Olympics events and have seen firsthand the limitless capabilities of these athletes. I am encouraged just about the prospects of how many more athletes will be drawn to these events because of the passage of this legislation.

A few years ago, Special Olympics Virginia received a grant that allowed the organization to implement a program specifically aimed at Richmond's inner city and giving individuals there otherwise bound to a life without physical athletic competition just a whole new outlook. Over a period of 4 years, the program grew to serve over 1,000 athletes. I am hopeful that this legislation will serve as a catalyst for the same type of growth all across the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout our country.

I would like to recognize Paul Marretti from my district who is a Special Olympics global messenger. Paul educates individuals around the world about the mission, philosophy and benefits of Special Olympics. He is a true leader who is committed to educating people, including Members of Congress,

about this incredible program as well as introducing it and attracting more athletes to it.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Roy Zeidman, Mr. Rick Jeffreys and everyone at Special Olympics Virginia who make such a difference in so many lives. I am hopeful that this legislation will further help all of them in their efforts.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), the nephew of Eunice Shriver, a member of the family that has contributed so much to the welfare of this country and to the welfare of our people.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the minority whip, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for his leadership and thank him for his friendship to my Aunt Eunice and my Uncle Sarge Shriver. Growing up, I recall many times when I saw him in the house, and now I enjoy serving with him in this House.

To Majority Whip BLUNT, I want to thank him as well for his spearheading this effort. It means a lot to so many millions of Americans, but it means a lot to me and my family that he would do such a thing and take his leadership position to help those who are often the most vulnerable in our society. It says a lot about him. I respect him for it.

As the gentleman from Maryland said, the motto of Special Olympics is, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." These inspiring words have really been the hallmark of Special Olympics, and I am proud to stand with my colleagues in support of H.R. 5131, the Special Olympics Empowerment Act.

When my Aunt Eunice created the Special Olympics over 36 years ago from a grant by my family's foundation, the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., Foundation which was named after my uncle who died in World War II, she had hoped to create an opportunity for those with intellectual disabilities like my Aunt Rosemary. She hoped to create a forum in which not only her sister Rosemary but others could dispel the myths associated with their disabilities.

The creation of Special Olympics has allowed over 1.5 million persons around the globe the opportunity to compete athletically in over 25 sports. The Special Olympics has become a vehicle and a platform to break down artificial barriers, improve public health, change negative attitudes in education and help athletes overcome the intolerance held against them due merely to their intellectual disability.

This act will provide funds to the Special Olympics in order to carry out an expansion of the organization and increase the participation of potential athletes. The funding would also permit Special Olympics to increase the

activity of the organization well beyond our borders and further awareness outside the United States of the contributions that individuals with intellectual disabilities can make in their society.

I had the opportunity with many of my colleagues to travel over to Iraq several months ago. I was asked by the liaison for the military what were some of the things that I would be interested in learning when I went over there. My Aunt Eunice always was after us to make sure we asked, wherever we were, how people with intellectual disabilities were being treated. Especially traveling around the world, I thought this was something that was important for me to follow through, so I asked the liaison to find out for me whether I could not meet the Special Olympics team of Iraq which had just competed in the international games in Ireland. I was in Saddam Hussein's palace, surrounded by thousands and thousands of both military and civilian workers helping to reconstruct that country. I was with my colleagues and someone came and touched me on the shoulder and said, "Congressman KENNEDY, your group is here to meet with you." Of course, I was excited about going down the hall and seeing the Special Olympics team of Iraq. I went down the hall, and there was the Special Olympics team of Iraq and surrounding them were practically every worker in Saddam Hussein's palace, all there with smiles on their faces. It had melted the place. These are people who were consumed with war, and on the sight of the inspirational Special Olympics, they just smiled. I think that says so much about the power of Special Olympics; it shows our common humanity. No matter where we are in the world, we are all members of the same human family. Nothing drives that message home more than the Special Olympics. I think that is what is really the power behind it. I am convinced that the power of this legislation is that we can have our international diplomacy moved forward tremendously just by expanding the Special Olympics program, because who is going to want to do war if they see the power of peace and love that the Special Olympics embodies.

I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri and the gentleman from Maryland for their leadership.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, let me again thank the majority whip for his diligence and leadership in working on this legislation and for ensuring its passage before we leave here for the election period. He has been a privilege to work with. His commitment to this objective is very clear and very powerful. I thank him. I join with him in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank my friend from Maryland

(Mr. HOYER) and both of our staffs for their work together and their work with the other body to see that we do get this legislation passed not just here but headed to the President's desk before we are done here in the next few days. It is always a pleasure to work with the gentleman from Maryland. I was pleased we were able to do this effectively with our friends on the other side of the building as well. Certainly, the gentleman from Rhode Island's aunt, Eunice Shriver, is a person who has made a difference in the lives of millions because she reached out to make a difference. Today, we have an opportunity to reach out and join her in that effort. I am pleased to be part of this bipartisan effort to make Special Olympics officially something recognized and encouraged by the United States Government.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2004.

Hon. ROY BLUNT,
House Majority Whip,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BLUNT: On behalf of our athletes, families, volunteers, and staff around the world, I would like to thank you for your leadership in introducing the historic "Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004," H.R. 5131 that will authorize \$15 million per year for the next 5 years to support the expansion of Special Olympics programs. We are equally elated that Senator Santorum is leading the effort to pass the companion bill in the Senate.

We consider it an honor that you recognize Special Olympics as a responsible and accomplished steward of federal funding. Indeed, millions of individuals with intellectual disabilities, as well as their families and countless communities, have benefited from our programs. Passage of the "Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004" will allow us to substantially expand these successful programs, including Healthy Athletes. As you know, Healthy Athletes provides much needed health care screenings and services to address preventable secondary health conditions such as obesity, poor fitness, nutritional deficiencies, untreated or poorly treated vision, and dental, hearing, and podiatric problems. Expansion of the program is particularly important since people with intellectual disabilities have a 40% higher risk of the health conditions referenced above.

I understand that some concern has been raised that the funding contained in H.R. 5131 may be used for abortion, abortion referral, or sex education. Please be assured that Special Olympics has not provided nor referred such services in the past; we would never use federal funds for such a purpose. I would be happy to discuss such concerns with you or your colleagues if necessary.

Thank you again for your leadership.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY P. SHRIVER, PH.D.,
Chairman & CEO.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5131.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 798) honoring former President James Earl (Jimmy) Carter on the occasion of his 80th birthday, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 798

Whereas Jimmy Carter was born in Plains, Georgia, on October 1, 1924;

Whereas Jimmy Carter attended Georgia Southwestern College and the Georgia Institute of Technology, and received a B.S. degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1946;

Whereas Jimmy Carter served honorably as a submariner in the United States Navy in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets, working under Admiral Hyman Rickover in the development of the nuclear submarine program;

Whereas Jimmy Carter continued his commitment to public service, serving as Georgia State Senator and Governor of Georgia;

Whereas Jimmy Carter was elected the 39th President of the United States on November 2, 1976;

Whereas Jimmy Carter created both the Departments of Education and Energy;

Whereas Jimmy Carter oversaw deregulation of the airline, energy and banking industries;

Whereas Jimmy Carter established human rights as a tenet of American foreign policy;

Whereas Jimmy Carter inaugurated diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China;

Whereas Jimmy Carter successfully negotiated both the Panama Canal and SALT II Treaties;

Whereas Jimmy Carter was instrumental in the completion of the Camp David Accord between Israel and Egypt, signaling a new era of peace between those two countries;

Whereas Jimmy Carter has continued his service to his country since leaving the Presidency by championing safe and affordable housing, human rights, and disease prevention;

Whereas Jimmy Carter remains actively committed to promoting democracy abroad and supervising elections in fledgling democracies;

Whereas Jimmy Carter was awarded the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize for "his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development"; and

Whereas Jimmy Carter serves as an international symbol of the integrity and compassion of the country he loves: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors former President Jimmy Carter on the occasion of his 80th birthday and extends best wishes to him and his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in